

Forest Forum

Washington County Small Woodlands Association

September 2026

Stewardship | Advocacy | Fellowship | Education

Tualatin Mountain Forest Tour with WCSWA

Date: Saturday, 9/19/2026

Time: **9am to 12pm** (Note time change)

Description: Join OSU Extension to learn more about the newest OSU Research Forest, the 3,110-acre Tualatin Mountain Forest outside of Scappoose. There will be a discussion of the history of the property, recently managed stands, recreation dynamics and opportunities for research. This will mostly be a driving tour, but please wear weather-appropriate clothing and walking footwear.

Register here: <https://beav.es/fDf>

2026 WCSWA Monthly Programs

September	19	Tualatin Mountain Forest Tour with WCSWA, 9:00am - noon	Learn more about the newest OSU Research Forest, the 3,110-acre Tualatin Mountain Forest outside of Scappoose. Registration required. See above.
October	27	Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP) in the North Willamette Valley	SWCD office, 7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy, Ste. 400, Hillsboro Speaker: Lauri Brewster , Regional Habitat Biologist, North Willamette Watershed District, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
November	20	WCSWA Annual Banquet	Embassy Suites Hotel, Hillsboro Note change of day: The banquet will be held this year on Friday.

WCSWA Leadership
President – Dan Shumaker
Vice-President – Vic Herinckx
Secretary-Treasurer – Melinda Shumaker

Board of Directors:

Pos. #1: Kathy Brock
Pos. #2: Ashley Tibbs
Pos. #3: Amanda Henderson
Pos. #4: Susan Schmidlin
Pos. #5: John Bucsek
Pos. #6: Mary Spiering

WCSWA Website – <https://wcswa.com/>

Website Manager: Michael Morgan
Contact Cathy Dummer for web postings and information.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>

To contact anyone on this page, email: wcswa.oswa@gmail.com

Note: Our Gmail address has changed to make it easier to use.

Legislative Committee Chair: none

Membership Committee: WCSWA Board members

Program Committee: John and Cathy Dummer,
Tony and Mary Spiering, Tom Nygren

Tualatin River Watershed Council Representatives: Tom
Nygren, primary; Eric Chambers, alternate

Forest Forum Newsletter

Editors: Norie Dimeo-Ediger and Bonnie Shumaker
Proofreaders: Bonnie Shumaker, Dan Hundley,
Tom Nygren, Ardis Schroeder, Norie Dimeo-Ediger

The Tree Farm Tradin' Post

You can place an advertisement in *Forest Forum*. This is a free service to our members (3-month limit). List tree farm items/land to buy, sell or trade. Email ad to wcswa.oswa@gmail.com.

Wanted: No items this month

For Sale: No items for sale this month

The Basic Forestry Shortcourse: Intro to Woodland Management

Looking to build skills for caring for your trees and managing your forest? Or just need a refresher?

This five-session introductory program is ideal for people who recently acquired forest property, who are facing struggles with some aspect of their land management, or who are simply looking to learn something new. Through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on activities, participants will learn about plant identification, assessment of soil conditions and tree health, forest development and ecology, enhancing wildlife habitat, harvesting and selling logs, and local resources for technical and financial assistance.

The Basic Forestry Shortcourse: Intro to Woodland Management teaches landowners and land stewards the fundamentals of woodland management. Topics include:

- Getting to know your forest (reading the land, plant identification)
- What's going on in your woods (forest health, wildlife management)
- Taking care of your woods (reforestation, forest management)
- Getting it done (operations, forest regulations, resources)
- FIELD DAY (activities that build on classroom topics, landowner sharing)

The field day will visit a local Washington County private forest, where participants will practice forest measurement skills, discuss the operations of thinning and harvesting, and learn more about local forest management dynamics.

The entire course is designed to be in-person so that participants can meet and learn from each other.

The Basic Forestry Shortcourse helps prepare participants for the more in-depth Master Woodland Manager Course, which will be offered in March and April of 2027 (dates coming soon!).

Questions or to sign up? Reach out to Jake Barker (jake.barker@oregonstate.edu, 503-397-3462)

Leadership Notes by Dan Shumaker

As of August 19th, Melinda and I have traveled over 4500 miles through Canada and Alaska. We left home on Thursday, July 23 and headed towards Banff, Jasper and Dawson City, Canada. On the road from Carmacks to Dawson City they were redoing the highway. It was mainly just many miles of rough, muddy roads covering the truck and trailer with a thick layer of muck. After taking the ferry across the Yukon River from Dawson City we traveled on the "Top of the World Highway". This highway was not muddy but extremely rough and dusty for hundreds of miles. The trailer became full of dust and it took hours in Tok, Alaska to clean everything.

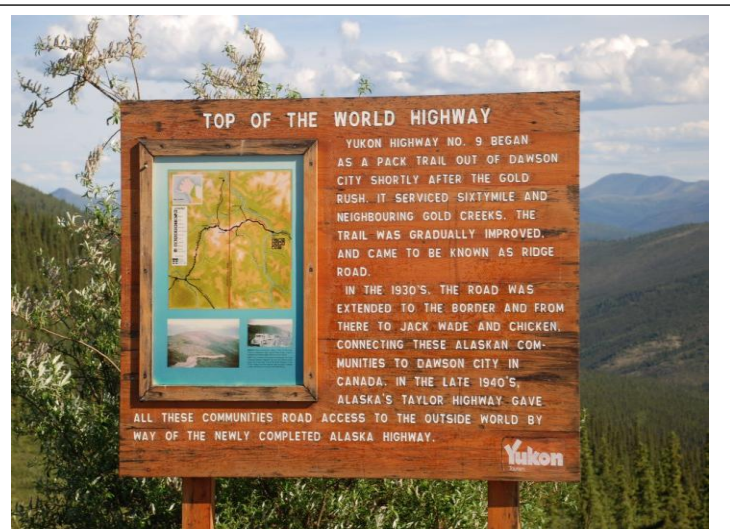
From Central Canada up to Alaska, the majority of trees we saw along the way were white spruce, black spruce, birch and quaking aspen. On the trip through both Canada and Alaska we noticed many of the white spruce and black spruce were dead or dying. At first, we thought the longhorn sawyer beetle was the culprit causing these trees to die as we kept seeing them at many of our campsites. They are fairly large and easy to spot with long antennas coming from their head. After more research it was determined the spruce beetle was the actual cause of the extensive tree death we saw. I found an article that stated the spruce beetle has affected more than 2.25 million acres of trees in Central Alaska since 2016.



Whitespotted sawyer beetle



Spruce beetle



QR code for membership application and renewal

This QR code goes directly to the OSWA online membership application. It may be helpful if you would like to renew your membership or know a fellow woodland owner who might like to join without having to search for the webpage.

WCSWA is at a crossroads and that means opportunities for you



Washington County Small Woodlands Association (WCSWA) is a strong chapter of Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA). Our chapter is proud of its success offering educational programs and opportunities to get together. This requires volunteer leadership. We have been blessed with volunteers that have participated for years. To stay strong, we need new volunteers since several positions will be open next year. They are listed below followed by a short description. None of these take a lot of time but they are essential to maintaining our chapter's strength. Please consider finding out more from the current volunteer or send an email to wcswa.oswa@gmail.com to find out more. **WCSWA NEEDS YOU!**

OPEN POSITIONS

President – *(Currently held by Dan Shumaker)*. The president, co-presidents, or the vice-president in his/her absence, shall issue notice for and preside at all meetings.

Treasurer – *(Currently held by Melinda Shumaker)*. The treasurer shall be a signatory on all accounts of the organization along with the president. He/she shall provide monthly accounting of all transactions on these accounts to the president or co-presidents.

Board Member – There are six board members. Two vacancies open each year for a three-year term. Board members attend three board meetings per year for general decision-making practices not reserved for the general membership.

Tree Farmer of the Year from Washington County Selection Committee - (currently Rich Gaebel and Bob Shumaker). Solicit recommendations mainly from Oregon Tree Farm System (OTFS) inspectors. Selection is based on forest stewardship and woodland community involvement.

Seedling committee chair – *(Currently held by Don Sohler)*. Don has been the chair for ten years and is ready to train someone else to take over. It is very rewarding. Contact Don from roster or email wcswa.oswa@gmail.com to find out more. We need a new seedling coordinator of 1 or 2 people.

Save these dates:

November 14, 2026

Oregon Tree Farm System Annual
Members Meeting & Recognition
Celebration:
Saturday, Oregon Garden, Silverton

June 19, 2027

Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year tour at Roje Gootee's Tree Farm in
Long Valley, Grant County



Advertising Opportunity: The Forest Forum is a monthly newsletter sent out to over 300 members and friends of WCSWA. Advertisers receive free newsletters for the duration of their ads. ADVERTISING RATES (PRICE

INCLUDES TYPESETTING & AD PREP)

YES! I want to advertise in the WCSWA Forest Forum. Ad size: _____

Enclosed is a check or money order for: 1 issue ____ 4 issues ____ 12 issues ____

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	1 issue	4 issues	12 issues
1/12 page	\$20	\$40	\$100
1/6 page	30	60	150
1/4 page	40	80	200
1/3 page	50	100	250
1/2 page	75	150	375
2/3 page	100	200	500
Full page	150	300	750

Please send this form, ad copy, logos, photos, etc. to:

Melinda Shumaker, 52490 NW Cedar Canyon Road, Banks, OR 97106. Thank you for supporting Washington County Small Woodlands Association!



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WILLAMINA 1000 Willamina Creek Rd. Willamina, OR 97396 Desired Species: Douglas fir	Tillamook 3111 Third St. Tillamook, OR 97141 Desired Species: White woods	Warrenton 550 NE Skipanon Dr. Warrenton, OR 97146 Desired Species: Douglas fir & White woods

*When the roots are deep, there is
no reason to fear the wind.*

~African proverb



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With over 20 years of experience in enhancing and maintaining forests and woodlands, we are your trusted experts. Call us today for references or to request a FREE estimate!

Tree School Field Day, Hopkins Forest, Oregon City, October 3

Join us for a day of learning in the woods on October 3 at Hopkins Demonstration Forest. Tree School Field Day will include a schedule of field classes and learning opportunities throughout the forest for attendees to choose from. You can hit the trails or take the shuttle to navigate the woods. The wide variety of forest types and demonstrations at the 140 acres of Hopkins provides diverse learning opportunities for woodland caretakers and tree enthusiasts. sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu



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Join Tualatin SWCD in celebrating Oregon's newest Rural Living Handbook

Tualatin SWCD just published its second edition of the Rural Living Handbook. It is 96 pages full of *"Everything you didn't know you need to know about rural living in Washington County."*

This handbook provides information on soil health, well water safety, weed management, pasture grazing strategies and other dozen or so topics it covers.

Rural Living Handbook Book Release Party

Date: Thursday, September 17th, 2026

Time: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Zesti Food Carts in Forest Grove (2131 Yew St.)

Enjoy good company and refreshments. Pick up a free handbook and talk with Tualatin SWCD staff, other community partners, and interested residents.





A BALANCED APPROACH

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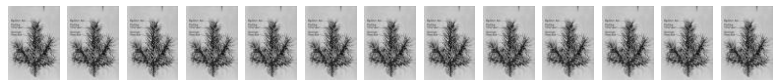


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Tillamook Forest Center *****Save the Date*****

A celebration of 20 years of impact will be
held on October 9th and 10th.
Details to follow in October Forest Forum.



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Helping woodland owners achieve their management goals.



Whatever you need to know



Gail and Gordon Culbertson (2019 Oregon Tree Farmers of the Year) working with Lauren Grand (center), OSU Forestry Extension Agent

Keep your forest healthy • Improve wildlife habitat
Reduce wildfire risk • Learn about certification

Find it at KnowYourForest.org

All the resources and assistance to manage your forestlands are in one easy to access location that is regularly updated.

- Search by County for local resources
- Find educational materials in the Learning Library
- Refer to forest practice laws
- Register for classes



Oregon Forest Resources Institute

Planted and Thinned Signs Available

by Mike Cafferata

Most Oregonians get information about forests by looking out the window of their car. People lead busy lives, and while there are many excellent forestry publications, videos, and educational programs available, relatively few people take the time to seek them out. One of the most effective ways to help the public understand forestry is through "Planted In" signs. When people see these signs, they immediately know a harvested area has been replanted. Over time, they also begin to recognize that forests are always changing and that active forest management includes growing the next forest. The signs are also a great tool for landowners. While we usually remember planting a stand or completing a thinning, many of us eventually forget exactly what year it happened. A sign is an easy reminder for you, your family, and future generations.

There are two easy options available for OSWA members:

Partnership for Forestry Education signs (available to everyone)

These larger signs are intended for harvest units visible from well-traveled public roads. They measure approximately 60" × 17" and should be mounted on two 6-foot posts (not included). More information is available here: <https://knowyourforest.org/education/get-started/tell-your-story>

OSWA fence-post signs

OSWA now offers smaller 8" × 11" signs designed for driveways, smaller roads, and within forest stands. They can be mounted to a variety of surfaces. They're a nice way to show pride in your forest, let neighbors and visitors know the stand has been replanted, and provide a handy reminder of when management activities occurred.

Rather than selling these signs, OSWA is happy to provide them to members who would like them. If someone wishes to make a voluntary donation to help cover costs, they're about \$5 each. Landowners simply add black 2-inch mailbox numbers to indicate the planting or thinning year. Mary and Mike usually bring the signs to OSWA events when they attend or can arrange delivery. The signs can be mailed if needed.



Promoting Salmon Habitat: A Small Woodland Owner's Journey

October 20, 6–7:30 p.m.

Online

Free

What makes salmon such a fascinating fish, what does healthy habitat look like for them, and how can small woodlands help?

Attend a webinar with Dave Bugni, small woodland owner and OSU Extension Master Woodland Manager, as he shares his 13-year journey on how he transformed his Clackamas County forest riparian area and stream into improved habitat for salmon and steelhead. Dave will walk through his restoration journey—from securing funding and collaborating with partners to implementing projects that support both salmon and the surrounding woodland.

You'll learn the key elements of healthy salmon habitat, why small woodlands play an outsized role in stream and fish health, and pick up a few memorable salmon facts to share with others.

To register go to:

https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kpWT6p2GTMeKffR_HwxIYA#/registration
or contact Sarah Cameron: sarah.cameron@oregonstate.edu or 503-821-1118

ACCESS, EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AND TIMBER TRESPASS

What Every Forest Manager and Landowner Needs to Know

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026
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with code:**

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Securing adequate access to your timberland is critical for management activities. When you do grant access over your property, it is just as critical to protect your rights and limit your obligations.

This one-day training will help you understand the basic issues governing permits, easements, and rights-of-way, as well as help you identify pitfalls in negotiating agreements.

Also covered: timber trespass, ways to reduce your chances of being a victim or committing timber trespass, and permitting and access issues for dwellings in the forest.

Register today at
www.westernforestry.org

***Support for this training is generously
provided by OFRI***

WFCA Western Forestry and
Conservation Association

Schwabe



**Oregon Forest
Resources Institute**

Browse and More, September

by Susan Schmidlin

I recently viewed a lecture by mushroom expert and author of *Fry, Thrive, Or Die*, Dr. Mike Amaranthus. Near the beginning of the talk, Dr. Mike recounted his fascination with fungi and the interplay of the underground networks of mycelium (the root-like vegetative part of a fungus) with our forests.

Early in his career he had the job of growing nursery seedlings for the purpose of regenerating forests after logging. He admitted this was a tough task. The seedlings were stunted and were showing a survival rate of only about 45%. He had the tender trees tested and found they were low in phosphorus. The soil was tested and it was sky high in phosphorus from what they were already adding to the soil through fertilizer amendments. He started asking around to find an explanation for the discrepancy.

This is when he happened to get in touch with a professor from Oregon State University, Dr Jim Trappe, who advised him it was a mycorrhizae problem. Mycorrhizae is the partnership where the mycelium network connects directly with the host plant roots. Dr. Jim advised him to go into an established forest with a good variety of mushrooms. Dr. Mike collected the mushrooms and made them into a slurry, using his wife's margarita blender. The slurry was thinned with 50 gallons of water and sprayed on the seedling beds and seedlings. The mixture was then watered in to reach the roots where it could do its magic. The seedlings went from a 45% success rate to 90% from the application. This nudge from Dr. Trappe became the impetus for Dr. Mike to become the President of MycoAnalytics LLC, the world's largest producer of mycorrhizal fungal products including the Big Foot brand sold in many nurseries.

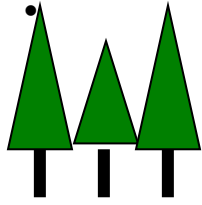
I asked around if commercial mycorrhizae fungi root inoculant was something used in our community and if it worked. Scappoose Bay Watershed Nursery likes experimenting and have tried adding the inoculant for several years. Little change was noted until they bumped up the inoculant strength and noticed survival rate increased dramatically. However, they did mention that commercial mycorrhizae is most likely cultivated and that what works for forestry trees may not necessarily be the correct varietal version of what landscaping trees and shrubs need.

Since plants and species of trees in an area have different specific strains of mycorrhizae, Scappoose Bay Watershed Nursery likes to get soil from areas that match what they are growing. Their current experiment included soil from mature madrone trees to incorporate into seedling madrones they planted in a nearby park. The soil had the perfect mix of mycorrhizae and the seedlings are thriving.

Washington County Small Woodland Association's forest seedling producer, Lewis River Reforestation, says that they do use mycorrhizae fungi root inoculant on their hemlocks and cedars to help grow vigorous roots, but usually do not need to add inoculant to the Douglas-fir seedlings. Since the nursery is enclosed on three sides by forest trees, nature has a tendency to reach out to the new plants already. The proof shows up when the seedlings are raised and the roots show all the fungal attachments happily transferring water, carbon, nitrogen and other minerals.



Forest Forum



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Potpourri

Membership: Welcome new members **Robert Langridge** of Forest Grove and **Barry Bolding** of Cornelius. We are here to help members achieve their management goals. To get the most out of your membership, come to the meetings and tours that are scheduled throughout the year. You'll find many kindred spirits among our diverse membership – and many opportunities to learn and share together! Questions? Contact any of the directors, officers, or Newsletter Editors listed on page 2.

Helpful Links:

Oregon's Forest Protection Laws: An Illustrated Manual 2025

This edition is now available as a print copy. You can order at Oregonforests.org. We will also have print copies available at WCSWA meetings.

Forestry for the Birds: Western Oregon was produced by the Forest Stewards Guild.

Download at: <https://foreststewardsguild.org/foresters-for-the-birds>

Recommended Fire Related Brochures:

Initial Attack Fire Equipment for Woodland Owners Booklet: www.wcswa.com. About us/links.

Firewise Landscaping: [Firewise Landscaping Basics | OSU Extension Service \(oregonstate.edu\)](http://FirewiseLandscapingBasics.OSUExtensionService.oregonstate.edu)

Wildfire Prevention: [Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery: Wildfire Prevention : State of Oregon](http://OregonWildfireResponseandRecovery.WildfirePrevention.StateofOregon)

Other Helpful Links:

- www.oregonwoodlandcooperative.com learn about the Oregon Woodland Cooperative
- <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonCountySmallWoodlandsAssociation>
- For E-Notification: : [FERNS - Welcome \(oregon.gov\)](http://FERNS-Welcome.oregon.gov) or visit an ODF Office